

Did God Say That?

How to Listen and Know It's From God

As a ministry leader, how can you listen to discern God's wisdom, and how can you know you're truly hearing from God?

5 Ways to Listen to God

- 1. The Word.** This is the gold standard for hearing from God. His Spirit teaches us as we interact with the written Word. Scripture should form the foundation for the mission, culture, and direction of our ministries.
- 2. A mental impression.** God may put a strategic thought for ministry advancement in our minds, or He may prompt us to pray with a struggling coworker. His thoughts will often stand out from our typical flow of thought, making them more noticeable.
- 3. An image.** God may use something we observe in nature to shed light on a ministry situation, or He may put a picture in our minds as we pray. Ask Him for its relevance, and take time to mull it over as you discern its application.
- 4. A conversation.** God's Spirit may highlight certain words another person says because He has a message for us through them. Learn to pay attention to those words and weigh them carefully before the Lord.
- 5. A song.** God may place a tune in your mind—for me it's often a hymn. As you reflect on the words, look for phrases that pertain to an aspect of your life or ministry. God may also quicken the words of a current song to you to confirm something He's doing in your life.

A Litmus Test for Hearing from God

- 1. Is it biblical?** Before responding to what you've sensed, look at it through the lens of Scripture to see if it's in concert with God's truth.
- 2. Does it resonate with others?** As you share it with key leaders in your organization, do they concur after prayerfully considering it?
- 3. Is it peaceable?** Do you have an overarching sense of God's peace as you envision implementing what you've sensed?

Lisa Hosler is president of Align Life Ministries, where she has served since 1985. Align is a life-affirming ministry that serves people in southeastern Pennsylvania, partners with organizations, and resources leaders and the church at large. Lisa speaks nationally and internationally about leading from a place of intimacy with Christ and seeking God collectively for greater alignment, agreement, and advancement.

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